

Independence Avenue, SW.,  
Washington, DC 20591, Telephone (202)  
267-9546.

#### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed TSO listed in this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire to the above specified address.

Comments received on the proposed technical standard order may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 815, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB-10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments specified above will be considered by the Director of the Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final TSO.

#### Background

The FAA established the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) in January 1991 to provide an ongoing mechanism to accept recommendations from the aviation industry in the regulatory process (56 FR 2190; January 22, 1991; and 58 FR 9230; February 19, 1993). In March 1993, the FAA established the Parts Working Group as part of ARAC (58 FR 16572; March 29, 1993). The Parts Working Group was tasked with recommending to ARAC new regulations and guidance material, as appropriate, pertaining to the issuance and administration of approvals of replacement and modification parts for civil aircraft. The proposed TSO in this notice is based on a draft proposed TSO developed by the Parts Working Group and recommended to the FAA by the ARAC.

The standards of proposed TSO-C148 apply to types of mechanical fasteners intended for tension and/or shear applications in the manufacture and maintenance of aircraft products. The standards are also adaptable to fasteners of proprietary designs. Proposed TSO-C148 provides alternative requirements for marking each individual fastener in lieu of the marking specified by 14 CFR § 21.607(d).

#### How To Obtain Copies

A copy of the proposed TSO-C148 may be obtained by contacting **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 26, 1997.

Todd B. Thompson,

*Acting Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-5432 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

#### Lithium Batteries

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request comments on a proposed technical standard order (TSO) pertaining to lithium batteries. The proposed TSO prescribes the minimum performance standards that lithium batteries must meet to be identified with the marking "TSO-C142."

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before June 13, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed technical standard order to: Technical Programs and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service—File No. TSO-C142, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. Or deliver comments to: Federal Aviation Administration, Room 804, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. Comments must identify the TSO file number.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Bobbie J. Smith, Technical Program and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, Telephone (202) 267-9546.

#### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed TSO listed in this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire to the above specified address.

Comments received on the proposed TSO order may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 804, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB-10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments specified above will be considered by the Director of the

Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final TSO.

#### Background

In the late 1970's there were numerous reports of emergency locator transmitters, powered by lithium sulfur dioxide batteries, exploding, corroding, and venting toxic gases in general aviation airplanes. This resulted in a series of three airworthiness directives (Amendment 39-3549 (44 FR 50321, August 27, 1979), Amendment 39-3422 (44 FR 10980; February 26, 1979), and amendment 39-3708 (45 FR 13051, February 28, 1980)) to correct the safety problem and the issuance of TSO-C97, specifically for lithium sulfur dioxide batteries. Since TSO-C97 was issued, there have been few installations using lithium sulfur batteries in aircraft equipment. Other batteries, however, of different lithium chemistries, sizes, and construction are widely used today in non aviation applications.

Lithium batteries are desired for installation in aircraft because of their high energy per unit weight and volume, high cell voltage, relatively constant voltage during discharge, excellent low-temperature performance, and long shelf life. They continue to pose a potential safety hazard if not chosen carefully for the intended use, and used within their design and test limitations throughout their life cycle. Proposed TSO-C142 prescribes a means of assuring that lithium batteries will perform their intended function safely under conditions normally encountered in aeronautical operations.

#### How To Obtain Copies

A copy of the proposed TSO-C142 may be obtained by contacting **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.** Copies of RTCA Document No. DO-227, "Lithium Batteries," dated June 23, 1995, may be purchased from the RTCA Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 24, 1997.

Brian A. Yanez,

*Acting Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-5433 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

#### Federal Highway Administration

##### Environmental Impact Statement: Bernalillo County, NM

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)